

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully submit, contemporaneously herewith, a Request for Continued Examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Appreciation is extended to Examiner Shen for the courtesy of the telephone interview conducted on March 29, 2011. At the interview, Mr. Shen indicated that he had reviewed the proposed claim and that it appeared that the claim most likely defines over the prior art currently of record. However, a new search will have to be conducted and all of the prior art reevaluated in response to this Amendment.

In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner pointed out that no parallel processing of the incoming call was specified or described in the body of the claim. In response to this, independent claims 2, 6 and 7 have been amended to clarify that an incoming call is switched in parallel to a plurality of end devices having a uniform calling number and furthermore that the intelligent call control determines at the same time and in parallel the system statuses of the plurality of end devices. Then, based on the system statuses of the end devices being called, the call is attempted to be delivered at the same time and in parallel to some or all of the end devices such that an optimal call delivery is performed, wherein only those call attempts promising success are initiated.

Immonen, which is the primary reference, discloses a system that involves so-called "queuing" (Abstract; page 2, line 25; page 3, line 27, for example), which means that an incoming call is connected sequentially to a plurality of terminals depending on the subscriber status of the terminals. In the Immonen system, a call is connected to a first terminal if the subscriber status information indicates that the first terminal is able to receive the call. If not able to receive the call, however, the call is placed in a queue and thereafter connected to a second terminal if the subscriber status information indicates that the second terminal is able to receive the call, and so on (page 2, line 29 -- page 3, line 29; claims 1 and 2).

LaPierre similarly fails to disclose a parallel call delivery to a plurality of terminals. Although the LaPierre system and method enables routing a call wherein a plurality of terminals can be reached under a single universal number, when a calling party dials the universal number, the controlling service control point determines whether the subscriber associated with the dialed number has signed up for the universal number service. Upon that

determination, the service control point instructs the calling party to select one of the alternate destinations associated with the subscriber, such as a pager, cellular telephone, facsimile machine, etc. In response to receiving the calling party's input, the service control point obtains the routing information associated with the chosen destination and instructs the controlling service switching point to route the call to the selected destination. In other words, after dialing the universal number the calling party must select a specific destination associated with that number.

It is therefore submitted that independent claims 1, 6 and 7 clearly define over the prior art of record because, even when combined, they fail to disclose the subject matter set forth in the claims as presently amended.

As discussed, the Examiner indicated that he would telephone the undersigned upon receiving the response and RCE and conducting an updated search to discuss the allowability of the claims and whether any further amendments would be helpful in distinguishing over the prior art.

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In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below:

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Name of Registered Representative

Signature

April 4, 2011

Date